

SECTION ONE – BEGINNING YOUR VISIT

Chapter Three – Important Park Information

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Park Fast Facts

DATE ESTABLISHED

- July 8, 1916 *Sieur de Monts National Monument*
- February 26, 1919 *Lafayette National Park*
- January 19, 1929 *Acadia National Park*

LOCATION AND AREA

Most of Acadia National Park is on Mount Desert Island, located mid-way along Maine's coast. The park is a one-hour drive to the southeast from Bangor. Schoodic Peninsula and seven other islands including Isle au Haut are also preserved. Acadia holds over 48,000 acres.

- 37,570 on *Mount Desert Island*
- 2,728 on *Isle au Haut*
- 2,266 on *Schoodic Peninsula*
- 10,452 in *conservation easements*

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- *Hulls Cove Visitor Center*: Provides information to plan your trip
- *Sieur de Monts Spring*: Nature Center, Wild Gardens of Acadia, Abbe Museum
- *Precipice Trailhead*: Peregrine nesting site; Interpreter on site in May/June/July
- *Sand Beach*: Natural pocket beach composed primarily of shell
- *Thunder Hole*: Rock chasm that occasionally thunders at mid-tide rising
- *Jordan Pond*: Outstanding glacial lake and mountain scenery; Jordan Pond Tea House for tea and popovers
- *Carriage Roads*: 45 miles of gravel roads in the park for walking, bicycling, or horseback riding
- *Bubble Rock*: Large glacial boulder perched on side of South Bubble Mountain
- *Cadillac Mountain*: Highest mountain along the eastern seaboard at 1,532 feet
- *Sargent Drive/Somes Sound*: Only fjord along the eastern seaboard; bisects Mount Desert Island into east and west side
- *Islesford Historical Museum*: Holds artifacts of a seafaring people; on Little Cranberry Island
- *Echo Lake Beach*: Popular swimming beach—west side
- *Seawall Picnic Area*: Popular picnic area on the ocean—west side
- *Bass Harbor Lighthouse*: One of the most photographed lighthouses in Maine; on west side near town of Bass Harbor

QUICK STATISTICS

- *Fifth smallest national park, one of the top 10 visited national parks*
- *120 miles of biking trails*
- *45 miles of carriage roads in park*
- *Park Loop road—27 miles*
- *26 mountains—Eight mountains over 1000 feet (Cadillac, 1530; Dorr, 1,270; Penobscot, 1,194; Champlain, 1,058; Sargent, 1,373; Pemetic, 1,248; Bernard, 1,071; Gilmore, 1,036)*
- *26 lakes and ponds on Mount Desert Island (Deepest lake—Jordan Pond, 150 feet)*

FLORA AND FAUNA

- *1101 species of flowering plants*
- *40 species of mammals*
- *11 species of amphibians*
- *7 species of reptiles*
- *338 species of birds*
- *31 species of fish*

VISITATION

The park receives almost 3 million visitors a year. The busiest months are July, August, and September; slowest months are December, January, and February.

WEATHER *(See also Appendix A)*

Spring: Low temperatures—30s; high temperatures—70 degrees; frequent rain; average yearly rainfall—48 inches yearly

Summer: Low temperatures—50s; high temperatures—high 70s to low 80s; fog common

Autumn: Low temperatures—30s; high temperatures—low 70s; cool sunny days; rain storms and/or snow can be expected

Winter: Low temperatures—zero to teens; high temperatures—20s; mixed precipitation of rain, ice, snow; average snowfall—61 inches



Visitor Services

ACCESSIBILITY

The park does have accessible facilities in some areas, including campsites, trails, and restrooms. Accessible areas are indicated in each section of this guide specific to park sites. Check appendix for full accessibility guide. Park information centers also have copies.

CAMPING

There are two park campgrounds, Blackwoods off of State Route 3 and Seawall, off of State Route 102A. See the recreation section for more information.

INFORMATION CENTERS

Hulls Cove Visitor Center

Hulls Cove Visitor Center, located off of State Route 3 in Hulls Cove, is open from mid-April to October 31. For more information, see page 2-1.

Park Headquarters

The park headquarters on Route 233, three miles west of Bar Harbor, does not have facilities or services for groups but can be contacted for information or in emergencies. From May through October it is open 8:00am–4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except on federal holidays. From November through April it is open 8:00am–4:30pm daily, except for Thanksgiving, Dec. 24, 25, and Jan. 1.

Other Park Information Centers

Thompson Island, just over the bridge from the mainland on State Route 3, is open from June until mid-October. Hours are 9am–5pm. The Nature Center at Sieur de Mont Spring is open from June through September. Hours are 9am–5pm. Park staff at Blackwoods and Seawall campgrounds can also provide information.

PARK NEWSPAPER/PARK MAP

The park's newspaper, the *Beaver Log* can be picked up at information centers (also available online). It provides listings of ranger-led programs such as hikes, walks, evening programs, boat cruises, and children's programs as well as helpful information about your visit. The park map is designed primarily for orientation to the highlights of Acadia. It is not a hiking map and does not show all roads on Mount Desert Island. A limited number of these two publications may be given to group leaders upon request.

PARK PHONE/ADDRESS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

*Acadia National Park, PO Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609
(207) 288-3338 (Voice/288-8800 TTY); Internet: www.nps.gov/acad/home.htm*

PARK PHONE NUMBERS (ALL AREA CODE 207)

*Emergency: 911
Park Ranger Emergency Only: 288-8791
Park Ranger Information/(i.e. permits, fees, etc.): 288-8786
General Park Information: 288-3338
Park Education Coordinator: 288-8822*

RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES

The park offers ranger-led walks, hikes, boat cruises, and evening presentations from mid-June through mid-October. With the exception of evening presentations, they are primarily for the general public, and not for groups. For special request program possibilities, call (207)288-3338.

SUPPLEMENTARY VISITOR INFORMATION

Acadia Corporation

Acadia Corporation is a Maine-owned company operating with the National Park Service to provide food service and merchandising facilities in the park. The Acadia Corporation operates the historical Jordan Pond House Restaurant and Gift Shop as well as gift shops at Cadillac Mountain and Thunder Hole. Contact Acadia Corporation at P.O. Box 24, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609 or (207) 288-5592.

Acadia Information Center (private)

(207)-667-8550 or (800)-358-8550

Chambers of Commerce

*Bar Harbor, Maine 04609: (207) 288-5103
Mount Desert-Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662: (207) 276-5040
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679: (800) 423-9264
Deer Isle/Stonington, Maine: (207) 348-6124 (Isle au Haut)
Acadia Information Center, Trenton, Maine: (207) 667-8550*

Eastern National

A nonprofit cooperating association offering book sales in the park.
PO Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-4988

Traveler's Information Station

For those traveling on State Route 3 from Ellsworth to the park, information is available on radio station 1610AM. Watch for signs from Ellsworth before the Mount Desert Island bridge alerting travelers for when the station is in range.



Park Activities

BICYCLING

Carriage roads are suitable for mountain bikes. The Park Loop Road and the primary state routes bear heavy traffic, particularly in July and August. They should be used with extreme caution. Bicyclists must obey all traffic regulations. Bike rentals are available in nearby towns. Check the recreation fact sheets of this guide for more information.

BOATING

A number of lakes and ponds on Mount Desert Island permit boating. There is a 10 horsepower limit on Jordan Pond, Eagle Lake, Upper and Lower Hadlock Ponds, and Echo Lake. There is no horsepower limit on Long Pond. All towns have launching areas for salt water near town docks and municipal piers. The law requires you to carry a coast guard approved life vest for each passenger. A better idea is to wear them. It could save your life! Canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and motorboats can be rented in surrounding communities. A variety of commercial vessels offer ferry service, fishing, nature cruises, sailing, and whale watching excursions.

CARRIAGE RIDES

Wildwood Stables provides the tradition of horse-drawn carriage tours along the scenic carriage roads in Acadia daily from mid-June to early October. The roads were built between 1913 - 1940 by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and are the best example of broken stone roads in the United States. Wildwood Stables also offers a horse camp for visitors wishing to bring their horses with them. No horseback riding is offered through Wildwood. Wildwood Stables is located on the Park Loop Road, one half mile south of the Jordan Pond House Restaurant. Contact the stable directly for reservations (207) 276-3622.

FISHING

Freshwater fishing requires a Maine state fishing license for residents 16 years or older and non-residents 12 years or older. Non-resident licenses can be purchased for the season or for shorter periods in town offices and some local businesses. Ocean fishing requires no license. Be cautious of surf conditions. Seaweed and algae covered rocks are extremely slippery.

HIKING

Over 120 miles of trails and 45 miles of carriage roads cover Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island, as well as trails on Isle au Haut and Schoodic Peninsula. These range from easy lowland paths to rugged mountain routes. Check the hiking

descriptions in the recreation section of this guide for more general information. For detailed descriptions of trails and carriage roads, commercial guides and hiking maps are for sale at park visitor centers.

MUSEUMS/NATURE CENTERS

The Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry Island is open daily from late June through September. Admission is free. The museum commemorates those who lived on the Cranberry Islands and also preserves a part of the history of maritime New England.

The Abbe Museum at Sieur de Monts Spring contains one of the finest collections of Indian artifacts in the state. It is open daily from mid-May to mid-October. Although the museum is located in the park, it is an independent and self-supporting nonprofit institution. A minimal admission fee is charged to aid the museum's research projects and to help with the preparation of new exhibits and publications. Special presentations will be made to groups with particular interests, but advance arrangements are necessary. A special program is available for students. (207) 288-3519.

The Nature Center at Sieur de Monts Spring includes exhibits about Acadia's protective efforts toward wildlife and plant species and offers some interactive exhibits for children. A book sales area and information services are available. It is open from June-September; Hours from 9:00am to 5pm.

The Wild Gardens of Acadia, adjacent to the Nature Center, is a living field guide to Acadia's plants and associated habitats. Several habitats are represented with labeled plants to help any budding botanist familiarize him or herself with Acadia's vegetation. Operated by the Bar Harbor Garden Club. Open dawn to dusk.

SCENIC DRIVES

The Park Loop Road is a 27-mile paved road that carries visitors through some of the most beautiful features of the park. The road affords views of Frenchman Bay and Acadia's rocky coastline, winds through quiet woods and around mountains, past large glacial lakes, eventually ascending Cadillac Mountain. The road includes a 3-mile spur road from the visitor center to the loop, a 16-mile one-way section, and a 5-mile two-way stretch between Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain. The Cadillac Mountain Road is three and a half miles.

In addition to the Park Loop Road, state and county roads may offer scenic views. **Sargent Drive** skirts along the edge of Somes Sound. Access is from Northeast Harbor or off of State Route 198. Watch for small signs. The 5.5-mile one-way loop road located on Schoodic Peninsula, one hour north of Bar Harbor, offers views of the rugged coast on the only part of the park on the mainland.

Federal law requires you to wear seat belts while driving in a national park.

SELF-GUIDING TRAILS

The park has three self-guiding trails. Brochures are available at the visitor center and the trailheads. From November through April brochures are available at park headquarters. Copies of the text for the trails are included in this guide. More specific information on these trails is offered in the appropriate sections of this guide.

- *Jordan Pond Nature Trail*: Off Park Loop Road at south end of Jordan Pond (.5 mile long)
- *Carroll Homestead*: Off State Route 102, one mile north of Southwest Harbor (.5 mile long)
- *Sieur de Monts Spring*: Located at Sieur de Monts Spring off of State Route 3 or the Park Loop Road

SWIMMING

Lifeguards are on duty in the summer at Echo Lake (fresh water) and Sand Beach (salt water). Staffed Memorial Day to Labor Day. **Sand Beach**, located off Park Loop Road, offers ocean swimming. The water temperature rarely exceeds 55 degrees.

Echo Lake Beach on the west side of the island, offers a somewhat warmer swimming experience. Other freshwater lakes located in the park serve as drinking water reservoirs and are closed to swimming and wading.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Cross-country skiing

Forty-five miles of carriage roads and 41 miles of unplowed park roads are suggested for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Skiing on hiking trails is not recommended because of the uneven and steep nature of trails, ice falls blocking the path, and trail routes obscured by snow. Ski equipment and rentals are available in some of the local communities. Ski tracks are sometimes laid down by volunteers on sections of the carriage roads when snowfall exceeds four inches.

Snowmobiling

The Hulls Cove Visitor Center parking lot is a good beginning spot for visitors trailering their snowmobiles wishing to access the Park Loop Road.

- Snowmobile travel is allowed on the 27-mile Park Loop Road (except a one mile section at Jordan Pond House), and most fire roads.
- Only two miles of carriage roads are open to snowmobilers as connector trails. The remaining 43 miles are closed to snowmobilers. Stay to the right; all park routes are two-way travel. Snowmobiles must display a valid state registration.
- Maximum speed limit is 35 m.p.h.
- Snowmobilers must use caution and yield the right of way to anyone not on a snowmobile.
- Towing people on skis or sleds is prohibited. It is illegal to operate a snowmobile while under the influence of liquor or drugs.
- Turn on your white headlight and red tail light half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, and whenever visibility is less than 500'.
- Drivers under age 10 must be accompanied by a person 18 years or older on their snowmobiles. Drivers 10 to 14 years old must be accompanied by a person 18 years or older. Drivers under the age of 14 are prohibited from operating a snowmobile on any public road. An adult may supervise only one minor.
- Call the park at (207) 288-3338 for updates on snow conditions.



Park Facilities

REST ROOMS

Flush Toilets (Seasonal)

Hulls Cove Visitor Center (Handicap Accessible)
Sand Beach Changing Area
Fabbri Picnic Area (Year-round)
Wildwood Stables
Jordan Pond House
Cadillac Mountain
Seawall Picnic Area
Echo Lake Beach
Pretty Marsh Picnic Area
Thompson Island Picnic Area and Information Center
Sieur de Monts Spring Parking Area
Park Headquarters (Year-round)

Vault Toilets

Thunder Hole
Bubble Pond
Jordan Pond Boat Ramp
Eagle Lake Parking Area
Ship Harbor
Bass Harbor
Acadia Mountain Parking Area
Brown Mountain Parking Area
Parkman Mountain Parking Area
Pretty Marsh

Portable Toilets

Otter Cliffs Parking Area
The Carroll Homestead

PICNIC AREAS

Tables, grills, and rest rooms are available at each area.

Thompson Island
Bear Brook
Fabbri Picnic Area
Pretty Marsh
Seawall



User Fees

The park entrance station, located just before Sand Beach, is open from May through October. 80% of the fees are returned directly to Acadia National Park to help with a backlog of resource management and maintenance projects. The following are current as of the printing of this guide, but because fees do change periodically, please contact the park's fee coordinator at (207) 288-8786 for the most current fee structure.

Acadia Entrance Permit

\$20.00/7 days

Good for entrance into Acadia National Park for one vehicle for 7 days, including the date of purchase.

Acadia Motorcycle/Motorbike Entrance Permit

\$5.00/7 days

Good for entrance into Acadia National Park for one motorcycle/motorbike for 7 days, including date of purchase.

Acadia Pass

\$40.00/Annual

Good for entrance into Acadia National Park for one vehicle for one year from date of purchase.

National Park Pass

\$50.00/Annual

Good for entrance to all national parks, monuments, and federal recreation areas for one vehicle for one year from date of purchase.

Golden Eagle Pass

\$65.00/Annual

Good for entrance to national parks, national wildlife refuges, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management sites.

Golden Age Lifetime Pass

\$10.00/Life

Good for entrance and half price camping to all national parks, monuments, and federal recreation areas.

Golden Access Lifetime Pass

Free to all US citizens with permanent disabilities.

Good for entrance and half price camping to all national parks, monuments, and federal recreation areas.



Commercial Users

One of Acadia National Park's objectives is that all visitors receive accurate information delivered in a clear, effective way so visits are safe, educational, and enjoyable. This in turn helps visitors best protect the values for which the park was established. As commercial operators who work with park visitors, you are an important part of reaching that objective.

Acadia manages commercial use of the park at levels that will prevent adverse effects on natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources. This management includes reducing or preventing crowding, congestion, and conflicts between visiting groups. Commercial operations that complement Acadia's mission and can be supported by using available National Park Service facilities (parking areas, restrooms, campsites, etc.) may be deemed appropriate.

Commercial Fees

If you have any questions, please contact the fee coordinator in the park at (207) 288-8786.

- Fees are based on the passenger capacity of each tour vehicle, not the number of passengers actually being transported.
- Outings conducted for educational purposes by schools or other bona fide educational institutions may qualify for a waiver of recreation fees if certain criteria are met. A letter stating official recognition as an educational entity is required or, alternatively, proof of educational tax exemption from the IRS or similar state authority. A statement of purpose must also be submitted, including a description of how the visit relates to the resources of the park. These should be sent to the chief ranger's office ahead of time. If approved, a letter to be presented at the time of visit will be issued.
- Fees are payable upon arrival in cash, by U.S. check or money order, or charged on Visa or Mastercard. Make check or money order out for the exact amount of the fee to the National Park Service.
- Turn off bus engines at all stops. The noise and pollution are distracting, irritating, and lessen the visitors' enjoyment of the area. We are sure that your patrons and other visitors will appreciate your compliance.

Commercial Mini-Bus Tour

\$60.00

One Time

Good for one entrance into Acadia National Park for a commercial tour mini-bus with a passenger capacity of 16 to 25.

Commercial Sedan Tour

\$25.00

\$5/person

One Time

Good for one entrance into Acadia National Park for a commercial tour sedan with a passenger capacity of 1 to 6.

Commercial Tour Bus

\$150.00

One Time

Good for one entrance into Acadia National Park for a commercial tour bus with a passenger capacity of 26 or more.

Commercial Van Tour

\$50.00

One Time

Good for one entrance into Acadia National Park for a commercial tour van with a passenger capacity of 7 to 15.



Acadia National Park Regulations

Please help protect park resources and other visitors by abiding by the following regulations. Review these before your visit to the park and be sure that your group is aware of those regulations that will pertain specifically to your visit. Contact the park ranger office at (207) 288-8791 if you have any questions. Failure to comply with park regulations can result in fines or arrest.

ACCIDENTS

Must be reported to park rangers if property damage or personal injuries are involved. Park rangers can be contacted at (207) 288-8791. If an emergency call 911.

ALCOHOL USE AND POSSESSION

Consuming alcohol in any public building, in parking lots, or on designated swim beaches is prohibited. It is illegal to be in the park when under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. The possession of alcoholic beverages by a minor (less than 21 years old) is prohibited. Moderate and wise use of alcohol is permitted in campgrounds and designated picnic areas.

ATV'S/MOTORBIKES

All motorized vehicles are prohibited on the park trails and carriage roads. All-terrain vehicles are not allowed anywhere in the park. Electric wheelchairs are permitted on the carriage roads.

BICYCLES/HORSES/SNOWMOBILES

Use is permitted only on designated routes. Route maps are available at ranger stations and visitor center. Use is prohibited on all hiking trails.

CAMPING

Permitted only in designated campsites at Blackwoods and Seawall campgrounds on Mount Desert Island. (see Camping section on page 4-19)

CLOSURES

- Cadillac Mountain road and summit closed 12:00 midnight to one-half hour before sunrise.
- Seawall picnic area, Bass Harbor Head, Compass Harbor, and Lake Wood road, parking and shore areas are closed from 10:00pm to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- Long Pond fire road and Western Mountain roads (except Seal Cove road) closed yearly from October 1 until spring re-opening from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
- Park Loop Road is closed from mid-autumn to mid-spring (call for specific date closures) with the exception of a two-mile stretch between Sand Beach and Otter Cliffs, and access to Jordan Pond from Seal Harbor.
- Other park areas may be closed to public use and travel for protection of designated rare or sensitive species including breeding or other critical habitat. Areas will be posted and information will be available at visitor contact stations.

CARRIAGE ROAD CLOSURES

- All carriage roads are closed to motor vehicles except for emergencies and official administrative purposes.
- In the spring when the ground is soft, carriage roads may be closed temporarily.
- The Witch Hole-Paradise Hill loops of the carriage road system are closed to horses.
- The Eagle Lake loop of the carriage road system is closed to horses except between junctions #7 and #8 as shown on the park's official "Carriage Road Users Map."
- Although not part of the park, carriage roads south of Jordan Pond are closed to bicycles.

COLLECTION OF RESEARCH SPECIMENS

Any scientific endeavor, whether as an individual or from an educational institution, shall not collect any items in the park unless a special collection permit has been issued. All research and/or specimen collection conducted in Acadia National Park requires a written study proposal that has been reviewed and approved by the park. Please contact the Chief of Natural Resources at (207) 288-8720.

FEEDING WILDLIFE

Feeding wildlife including sea gulls and any roadside begging animals is prohibited.

FIRES

Fires are prohibited except in provided fireplaces or receptacles in established campgrounds and picnic areas. Only dead and down wood may be collected for fires. Fires may be temporarily banned in campgrounds and picnic areas during periods of high fire danger to protect park resources and reduce the risk of wildfires.

FIREARMS

Must be unloaded and cased or otherwise packed in such a way as to prevent use.

FIRECRACKERS

Sparklers are permitted; other firecrackers are prohibited.

FISHING

A state license is required for freshwater fishing. Licenses may be obtained at town offices on Mount Desert Island.

HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Hunting and trapping on park lands are prohibited.

IN-LINE SKATING/ROLLERBLADES

Use of in-line skates, skate boards, or similar skating or coasting devices is prohibited in the park.

PERMITS

Permits are required for special events, public assembly or meetings, sale or distribution of printed matter, scattering of ashes, business operations (commercial use license), commercial photography, commercial vehicles, and any other special uses. Please contact the chief ranger at (207) 288-8770 for information.

PETS

May not be left unattended and shall be leashed or otherwise physically restrained at all times. Pets are allowed in all park locations except Sand Beach, Echo Lake Beach, Isle au Haut campground, ladder trails, and inside public buildings. It is requested that dogs are not brought on any ranger-led activities. Service dogs or sightseeing dogs may accompany their owner to all park locations.

PICNICKING

Picnicking that involves preparing food by cooking or heating including use of charcoal and gas grills, camp stoves, etc. is permitted only in designated picnic areas. Picnicking without cooking is allowed anywhere in the park.

PUBLIC PROPERTY/NATURAL FEATURES/PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

The possession, injury, destruction, removal or disturbance of park property, or natural resources including animals, plants, minerals, cultural, and archeological objects is prohibited. This includes the collecting of rocks, cobbles, plants, marine organisms, other natural materials or historic objects and artifacts.

SEAT BELTS

Federal law requires that seat belts are worn when driving or riding as a passenger in a national park.

SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited in all federally owned public use and administrative buildings throughout the park. Smoking may be temporarily banned on hiking trails and other areas during periods of high fire danger to protect park resources and reduce the risk of wildfires.

SWIMMING

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Eagle Lake, Bubble Pond, Jordan Pond, Upper and Lower Hadlock Ponds, and the south end of Long Pond are closed to swimming by local ordinances because they are public water supplies. Swimming is allowed at Sand Beach and Echo Lake Beach. Glass containers, flotation devices, kites, pets, and athletic sports and games that interfere with other users are prohibited on Sand Beach and Echo Lake Beach.